

## CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising:

5 a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one  
tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for  
engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free

10 from said handle; and

means for slidably supporting said rod on said handle.

2. A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for slidably supporting said  
rod comprises:

15 at least one guide having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod.

3. A fork as recited in claim 2, wherein said means for slidably supporting said  
rod comprises:

two guides.

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4. A fork as recited in claim 3, wherein said means for slidably supporting said  
rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from

said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

5. A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for engaging food comprises:

5 a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

6. A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger than the width of said rod.

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7. A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
means for determining the temperature of the food items.

8. A fork as recited in claim 7, wherein said temperature determining means  
15 comprises:  
a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said  
tine head.

9. A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
20 a rubber based grip on said handle.

10. A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising  
a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one  
tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for  
engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free  
5 from said handle; and

at least one guide post for slidably supporting said rod on said handle, said  
guide post having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod to facilitate movement of said  
rod across said handle.

10 11. A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for slidably supporting  
said rod comprises:

at least two guides for facilitating controlled lateral movement.

12. A fork as recited in claim 11, wherein said means for slidably supporting  
15 said rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from  
said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

13. A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for engaging food  
20 comprises:

a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

14. A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger than the width of said rod.

5 15. A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
means for determining the temperature of the food items.

16. A fork as recited in claim 15, wherein said temperature determining means comprises:  
10 a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said  
tine head.

17. A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
a rubber based grip on said handle.

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